

# **RESEARCH PAPER PROJECT GUIDELINES**

**ENG 231: WORLD LITERATURE**

**Instructor: Y. Bailey-Kirby**

You will write an analytical research paper of **approximately 2000 words or, in other words, about 6-8 typed pages**. The essay must be **double spaced with one inch margins** and use a legible font style like "Times New Roman" or "Arial" (size 12). You must include an outline with your essay and a "Works Cited" page at the end of your essay. You are also required to go visit the writing center with your research paper, have it stamped/dated, and submit it as your rough draft with your final revised copy of the research paper or you will be penalized one full letter grade (10 points) if you do not go to the writing center. Moreover, you will present your findings in a **10 minute presentation** to the class. Your findings may be presented as a speech with any of the following additional suggestions:

- PowerPoint or posters for visual effect;
- a short movie or animation film;
- a scrapbook, comic book, or graphic novella;
- a re-enactment of one of the dramas (perhaps one scene) in full costume or a re-write of one of the dramas and thus performed in a modern setting and plot in front of the class;
- a trivia board game or game show for the class to play;
- composing poetry, such as a Canto in the terza rima and read it aloud to the class; or
- composing music (lyrics and sheet music to be performed) that conveys the theme of the original work or performed as a dance.

The main point is to present your understanding of the reading in a creative, fun, and engaging way. You will be trying to apply visual, kinesthetic, and/or auditory styles of learning in your presentation.

Your main objective will be to analyze any one of the reading assignments from the semester. You will determine the theme and turn in a clearly stated thesis for my approval. You will need to choose which Element(s) of Literature [Character: Protagonist vs. Antagonist or Round/Dynamic vs. Static/Flat; Plot: Exposition, Rising Action (Complications and Conflicts), Climax, Falling Action, Resolution/Denouement as well as Foreshadowing; Setting; Point of View; Symbolism/Symbols; and Style, Tone, and Irony) you want to discuss regarding the theme.

With your new topic of interest, **you will be required to include a minimum of three secondary sources**, in which you will be required to quote, paraphrase, and/or summarize from each of them at least once. **You are permitted ONLY ONE BLOCK QUOTE**, so do not rely on chain linking block quotes to write your paper because you are supposed to use your own words; hence, analyze, interpret, and evaluate the original text before writing the essay on your understanding of the reading. You should support your thesis with evidence from the original text while the secondary sources will lend authority to your analysis of the material. Your secondary sources must be legitimate, academic references, such as ProQuest, Ebsco, JSTOR, etc., but your primary source is one of the works of fiction, poetry or drama from the course's reading assignments. **DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA, SPARKS NOTES, CLIFF NOTES, OR OTHER NON-ACADEMIC SOURCES IN YOUR ESSAY!!!**

You should be using literary criticisms and literary analysis articles and books on your subject of interest. You should **quote, paraphrase and/or summarize a minimum of THREE times from the work of poetry, fiction, or drama on top of the THREE quotes from your secondary sources**. Remember you must support your analysis with examples from the assigned reading, so you will need to quote, paraphrase, and/or summarize a passage. You may choose any one of the works listed in our course syllabus and analyze it for a specific theme, but when you decide to select the secondary sources to assist and lend you authority, you may want to do a feminist criticism, psychological analysis, or even historical analysis. **Between the three secondary sources and one primary source from our reading assignments, you should have a minimum of SIX citations (quotes, paraphrased passages and/or summaries)**. Of course, you are permitted and encouraged to have more than six citations, but do keep in mind that you must use the **MLA format for citations/ documentation**.

- **UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS IN THE INTRODUCTION** and aim for well-developed paragraphs for the introduction, body, and conclusion. For example, if you have less than three sentences for an introduction paragraph, you have a weak introduction paragraph and need to strengthen it. (Note: We will be looking at a couple of example research papers and assessing why they are a strong research paper as a class.)
- Your research paper also needs to be written in a formal voice. (**Do not use first person "I" or second person "you," and avoid use of slang terms or contractions like can't or don't**). Furthermore, no handwritten papers will be accepted, and late papers automatically receive a late grade of "D"; therefore, plan your schedule carefully as not to leave yourself with no time to complete the paper by the due date or to simply write it at the last minute.
- **If you find yourself struggling, arrange a time to meet with me in advance, and I will be more than glad to assist you on organizing your ideas, answering any questions, or giving you any feedback on your analysis of the short fiction.**
- **MLA Citation/Documentation & Works Cited**: You must apply the MLA format for citation/ documentation when quoting, paraphrasing or summarizing from the stories. **Even if you are borrowing the ideas from another source or even putting it in your own words without giving the original source credit, it is plagiarism.** You must support your

analysis with passages from the reading assigned, so apply the MLA format or it is plagiarism if you do not credit your source. [An example of applying the MLA FORMAT: In the "A & P," Sammy states, "I felt how hard the world was going to be to me hereafter" (Updike 19). Remember to use BLOCK quote if you are quoting a lengthy passage as your support, but do not use more than one in your paper.]

- **Definition of plagiarism:** A writer must cite the source of phrasing, ideas, or information of another writer in written work. Even if one paraphrases or summarizes material from another writer, the source must be acknowledged. Not acknowledging the phrasing, ideas or information or another writer constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism exists as an illegal action -- a type of theft that, in the business professional world, for example, could result in severe penalties against you. The administration and faculty of CSN prohibit plagiarism, whether the language and the ideas originate from a published source or from work done by another student. Commission of plagiarism and/or cheating may result in severe penalties, such as failure of the course. Therefore, you should credit all your sources by providing parenthetical citations and a "Works Cited" at the end of your essay.

**FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO HELP YOU FORMULATE A THESIS STATEMENT.**

**STEP ONE: CHOOSE A STORY, PLAY, OR POEM**

*The Epic of Gilgamesh, The Hebrew Scriptures (Genesis or Job), The Qur'an/Koran, Bhagavad - Gita, Antigone, The Odyssey, The Tale of Genji, The Prince, Inferno, and Don Quixote*

**STEP ONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP TWO: CHOOSE A THEME**

**How to Determine a Theme:** The theme is the main idea; it is an abstract concept made concrete through the images, characterization, and action of the text. It is not the plot or events of the story. Instead, you are considering the main ideas or points which recur throughout the story/reading. Once you have determined a theme, try to narrow it down even further. Push the theme as far as you can. Here are a few examples to help you get started.

**Example Themes:**

- The theme of "pride" in *Antigone*.
- The theme of "salvation" in Dante's *Inferno*.
- The theme of "obedience" in *Job*.
- The theme of "honor" in *Don Quixote*.

**STEP TWO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP THREE: CHOOSE AN ELEMENT OF LITERATURE (1-3 IS THE MOST MANAGEABLE.)**

**Examples:** Character, Symbolism/Symbols, Setting, Plot, and/or Irony, etc.

**STEP THREE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP FOUR: FORMULATE A THESIS STATEMENT BY COMBINING STEPS 1-3.**

**Example Thesis:**

- The themes of chivalry and adventure are conveyed through the characters and symbols in *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes.

**STEP FOUR:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## AN EXAMPLE OF AN INFORMAL OUTLINE

Thesis: The themes of chivalry and adventure are conveyed through the characters and symbols in *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes.

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| <p>I. Introduction</p> <p>A. Briefly summarize the reading (i.e. story, play, etc.) and identify the literary elements that you will be analyzing as well as the critical approach (i.e. historical or psychological overview, etc.)</p> <p>B. State thesis.</p> <p>II. Topic sentence: Character A &amp; Theme</p> <p>A. Example 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>B. Example 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>III. Topic sentence: Character B &amp; Theme</p> <p>A. Example 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>B. Example 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> | <p>IV. Topic sentence: Character C &amp; Theme</p> <p>A. Example 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>B. Example 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>V. Topic sentence: Symbols &amp; Theme</p> <p>A. Example 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>B. Example 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>VI. Topic sentence: Setting &amp; Theme</p> <p>A. Example 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>B. Example 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quote or paraphrase from the reading as evidence.</li><li>2. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting your thesis.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quote or paraphrase secondary source as evidence.</li><li>b. Explain meaning/relevance in supporting you.</li></ol></li></ol> <p>VII. Conclusion: Reiterate the main points of your essay. (DO NOT JUST RESTATE THE THESIS! You should recap the main points of your essay in separate sentences as well as offer some provocative insight on your topic. If you have less than three sentences, you have a weak conclusion and need to strengthen it.)</p> <p><b>(NOTE: The lower case a &amp; b in the outline does not necessarily mean that you must always include a secondary source for each example, but this example outline should help give you an idea on how to approach your own outline and organize your thoughts.)</b></p> |
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### CHECKLIST FOR RESEARCH PAPER:

- \_\_\_ 1. Included an outline.
- \_\_\_ 2. Included a "Works Cited" page.
- \_\_\_ 3. Have a minimum of 2,000 words for the essay (Outline & "Works Cited" are on top of the 2,000 words).
- \_\_\_ 4. Used the MLA format as well as the formal voice (third person point of view, no slang, no contractions, etc.)
- \_\_\_ 5. Used three secondary sources or more at least once per source (i.e. a minimum of three times: quoted, summarized, and/or paraphrased).
- \_\_\_ 6. Used the primary source (original text: play, novel, story, poem, etc.) a minimum of three times: quoted, summarized, and/or paraphrased.
- \_\_\_ 7. Submitted rough draft of your research paper (stamped/dated by writing center) in a folder or as an attachment on top of the final revised draft of your research paper when you post it in the electronic drop box.
- \_\_\_ 8. Submitted Xeroxes/printed copies of your secondary sources in a folder or as an attachment (NOT JUST LINKS THAT MIGHT NOT OPEN), but you should copy and paste the entire literary criticism/article in a WORD or RTF document and post it in the electronic drop box.

**\*\*\*\*\*REMEMBER YOU MUST SUBMIT THE FINAL DRAFT OF YOUR RESEARCH PAPER IN THE ELECTRONIC DROP BOX.\*\*\*\*\***